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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.
207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

OCTOBER

1946

	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	NOVICKI	
	GILLIAM	
✓	Matteson	
	[illegible]	
✓	[illegible]	
✓	[illegible]	
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IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

November 19, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Regional Director, Region Two.

Reference is to acting Regional Director Robertson's memorandum of November 14, with regard to the Yellowstone monthly narrative report for October which contains the statement at the top of page 2 reading: "On October 17, we received our new construction wage schedule, approved in the Director's Office August 19." We regret exceedingly that this statement caused your office concern. The statement was not included with the intent of criticizing the delay in our receiving the mimeographed copies, but was merely placed in the report for our record purposes. Perhaps we should have omitted "approved in the Director's Office August 19" from the statement. We merely intended this as a ready reference covering receipt of the approved construction wage schedule here and the approval date.

Please accept our apologies and rest assured that no criticism was intended.

Fred T. Johnston,
Acting Superintendent.

In duplicate.

cc: File
Mr. Rogers (Chicago)
cc
JJ/wsh

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION TWO
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

November 14, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,
Yellowstone National Park.

Reference is made to your memorandum dated November 7 covering the monthly report of activities at Yellowstone National Park for October. At the top of page 2, we note the following comment: "On October 17, we received our new construction wage schedule, approved in the Director's Office August 19". The intent of this statement is not entirely clear to us. We assume you may have had reference to mimeographed copies of the approved wage rates. If so, we believe the delay in receiving them is not unreasonable considering that the mimeographed data is released by the Director's Office as soon as the necessary stencils can be prepared and mimeograph copies run off. While it would be more convenient to receive such data earlier, we believe the delay should not prove too inconvenient inasmuch as several copies of the approved wage board recommendations are made available promptly to the area directly concerned following approval.

For example, in connection with the construction wage schedule you referred to, this was approved on August 19 by Director of Personnel Maulding and forwarded through channels, reaching this office August 26. Four copies were sent you accompanying our memorandum of August 28 which commented upon pertinent emergency wage board action concerned with construction rates.

We would be glad to receive your comments on this matter if the handling of wage board data is not entirely clear.

W. E. Robertson,
Acting Regional Director.

cc: Director.

November 7, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of October 1946:

Weather Conditions. Frequent storm periods, below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation and snowfall occurred during October. No clear day was recorded at Mammoth while 9 days were partly cloudy and 22 were cloudy. Total precipitation for the same station was 3.34 inches as compared to 1.83 inches in 1943, .89 inch in 1944, and .47 inch in 1945. The maximum temperature of 68 was recorded on the first and the minimum of 15 on the 27th. Snow which fell early in the month remained at higher elevations and later storms left a white blanket over the entire park. At the end of the month winter had definitely arrived two weeks or more in advance of the usual date.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made the following trips away from the Park during October: On October 3, accompanied by Mrs. Rogers and Supt. and Mrs. Emmert, of Glacier National Park, he left via east gate for the National Park Service conference at Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, returning to the Park on October 17. On October 23, he traveled to Spanish Creek Ranch, Gallatin Gateway, Montana, for a conference with Mr. W. M. Nichols, President, Yellowstone Park Company, returning October 24. From October 28, until the end of the month he was at Casper, Wyoming, attending the 21st Annual Dude Ranchers Convention. Asst. to the Supt. Joffe and Mrs. Joffe accompanied him to the convention, returning by Devils Tower and Custer Battlefield National Monuments to make routine inspections of the areas. Asst. Supt. Johnston and Chief Ranger Barrows served as Acting Superintendent during most of the month.

On October 28, Assistant Superintendent Johnston, Master Mechanic Robinson, and Chief Electrician Seasholtz left the Park to go to Salt Lake City to obtain surplus property. Mr. Seasholtz traveled on to California with representatives from Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks to secure electrical and radio equipment for the parks from Army and Navy surplus.

On October 21 the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association held its annual meeting. Fred T. Johnston was re-elected President of the Association, and Park Naturalist David DeL. Condon was elected Executive Secretary. New members were elected to the Board of Directors and planning was done for the ensuing year's activities.

Collection of the motor vehicle license fee was discontinued at the close of business October 15.

On October 17 we received our new construction wage schedule, approved in the Director's Office August 19.

On October 8, an examination was announced by the 13th Civil Service Region for Stenographer-Typist, CAF-2, the closing date for the filing of applications for which was originally set for October 31, and later extended to November 14. The examination will be held by the local Civil Service Board in the Park.

Park Ranger John G. Lewis left the Yellowstone on October 22 for transfer to a District Ranger position at Bryce Canyon, Utah. His transfer was effective November 1. On October 24, we received telegraphic advice of the approval of Dr. Bauer's transfer from Chief Park Naturalist at Yellowstone to Geologist, P-5, in the Director's Office. Effective September 30, Anthony B. Nelson, Automotive Mechanic, CPC-6, received his disability retirement, after having been on sick leave and leave without pay since July 2, 1945. Mr. Nelson had been employed in the Yellowstone since January 1929.

Inspections. Supt. and Mrs. John C. Preston, Mt. Rainier NP, and Supt. and Mrs. Preston Macy, Olympic NP, in Oct. 1 enroute NPS conference at Mammoth Cave, out West Oct. 2; Supt. John McLaughlin, Grand Teton NP, in Oct. 2, out 3rd. Supt. & Mrs. J. W. Emmert, Glacier NP, in Oct. 2, out Oct. 3 to Mammoth Cave; Halsey M. Davidson, Architect, Region Two, in North Oct. 9. Charles P. Mottz, Region Two Highway Engineer, in Oct. 12, out to Teton with Architects Davidson, Mattson, and Neubauer Oct. 14, out to Omaha, Oct. 26. Adolph C. Thuring, Asst. Park Engineer, Glacier NP, in Oct. 16 enroute Salt Lake City to secure surplus equipment for areas in Region Two. Ed Cowan, FRA, Engineer, Denver, in South Oct. 17 to show Yellowstone road projects to prospective contractors. R. W. Revell, Asst. Engineer, U.S.G.S., Boise, in Oct. 22, to make caches of Snoplane gasoline for winter use by that Service. Franklin J. Neubauer, Region Two Architect, left for Omaha Oct. 29, after assignment to Resident Landscape Architect Mattson since Sept. 29. Weldon Robinson, Biologist, F&WS, Denver, left the Park on October 2, after completing his fall assignment on coyote investigations, since August 31.

Plans, Maps, and Surveys. Park Engineer Wohlbrandt spent Oct. 24th at Devils Tower National Monument with Regional Engineer Lindauer in collecting data for the Roads and Trails report, and the 25th at Custer Battlefield National Monument in collecting road data for the Roads and Trails Report there.

At the end of the month the Major Roads estimates were completed for Yellowstone National Park.

General Publicity. A press release containing statistics for the travel year was completed and sent out to a mailing list of 138 names on October 7. A press release was issued on October 24 concerning the closing of East and South gates by snow. These entrances will not be re-opened to visitor travel this season. The September-October edition, Vol. XX, No. 5, of Yellowstone Nature Notes, was multilithed and mailed during the month. This issue of Nature Notes is the first one prepared on the new multilith purchased by the Yellowstone Library and Museum Association.

On October 17 we received our new Superintendent's seal recently approved in the Director's Office August 17.

On October 8, an examination was announced by the Civil Service Region for Stenographer-Typist, CAF-2, the closing date for the filing of applications for which was originally set for October 31, but later extended to November [illegible]. The examination will be held by the local Civil Service Board in the Park.

Park Ranger John C. Lewis left the Yellowstone on October 21 for transfer to a Ranger's position at Bryce Canyon, Utah. His transfer was effective November 1. On October 24, we received telegraphic notice of the approval of Mr. [illegible] transfer from Chief Park Naturalist at Yellowstone [illegible] in the Director's Office, effective [illegible]. Anthony B. [illegible], automotive mechanic, CPC-8, resigned his position, after having been on sick leave and leave without pay since July 8, 1945. Mr. [illegible] had been employed in the Yellowstone since January, 1936.

Inspections. Supt. and Mrs. John [illegible] [illegible] Supt. and Mrs. Preston Macy, Olympic, arrived in the Park [illegible] Supt. John McLaughlin, Grand Canyon, [illegible] Supt. & Mrs. J. W. Emmert, Glacier, [illegible] Wesley W. Davidson, Architect, Region Four [illegible] Region Two Highway Engineer, [illegible] Neubauer [illegible] Chester [illegible] Park Engineer, [illegible] equipment for areas in Region Two, [illegible] to the Yellowstone [illegible] Assistant Engineer, B.P.R., [illegible] for winter use by [illegible] Architect, left for [illegible] Architect Watson [illegible] left the Park on October [illegible] investigations, since August 31.

Films, Maps, and [illegible]. Park Engineer [illegible] Devils Tower National Monument [illegible] for the Roads and Trails report [illegible] Yellowstone [illegible]

At the end of the month the [illegible] Yellowstone National Park.

General Publicity. A press release [illegible] year was completed, [illegible] A press release was issued on October 30 concerning the closing of the [illegible] gates by snow. [illegible] The September-October edition, [illegible] of Yellowstone Nature Notes, was published and mailed [illegible] Nature Notes is the first one prepared [illegible] Yellowstone Library and Museum Association.

General Complaints. Only one written complaint was handled by the Superintendent's Office during October; however, a few others were received and will be answered during November. The one complaint was an objection to paying the $3.00 motor vehicle license fee during October when most facilities were closed and the visitor only passed through the Park for a day.

Road Maintenance. Snow plows operated intermittently from the 10th to the end of the month and some sanding was necessary because of the unusual, icy condition of the roads. Most of the plowing was for the convenience of the tourists, but some was for our own need in getting coal and wood hauled throughout the park.

Work on replacing the log hand rail on Fishing Bridge was nearly completed, but was closed down because of snowy weather. The replacement of the log rail on the Gardiner River Bridge, 7 miles above Mammoth on the road to Norris, is well underway. Replacement of the wooden deck on the Yellowstone River bridge at Tower Falls is just started.

All road maintenance camps are closed with the exception of Mammoth. Twelve men are still employed, divided into two small crews. The Dunraven Pass road was closed to traffic on the 15th, roads to East and South gates on the 23rd, and the road to West gate on the 28th.

The two No. 212 Caterpillar motor graders, reported as secured from Surplus last month, have been frozen and may not be available to us.

Other Maintenance. MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM. Work on Project 401.1 temporary residence at West Yellowstone, was completed. Excavation for foundations was under way on projects 401.2 and 401.3, temporary residences at Mammoth. These houses are being erected from old C.C.C. buildings under allotment 14X1018.001, Physical Improvements. Other projects underway under this allotment are:

Work on project 201-7, Residence (Bldg. No. 8)- completed during the month.
Work on project 201-11, Museum & Quarters (Bldg. No. 1) - continued.
Work on project 201-25, Ranger Station (Bldg. No. 133) - completed.
Work on project 212-6, Water Line Replacement, West Yellowstone - completed.
Work on project 212-5, Water System (Firehole River supply) - completed.
Work on projects 207-16, 207-17 and 207-19, Grounds at Old Faithful, Fishing Bridge, and Paint Pots, was started. Cleaning out debris from the hot pools is the major work.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company closed its offices at Mammoth and moved to Helena for the winter, on October 1. John Q. Nichols, Secretary, and Huntley Child Jr., Manager of Lodges and Camps, remained in the Park until October 21.

Progress on the removal of the tennis court, located between the W. M. Nichols residence and Opal Terrace, has not been very good and the ground may freeze too deep to make grading work practical. Every effort will be made to have the area around Opal Terrace presentable before travel begins next year.

The Yellowstone Park Company operated the Old Faithful Tourist Cabins without water, beginning October 1, due to freezing of pipes, water being available only at the comfort stations. Old Faithful cabins and cafeteria closed after breakfast on October 11, Late overnight visitors were taken care of at Hamilton's Lower Store. The Company closed their Old Faithful Garage on October 15.

Mr. C. A. Hamilton closed his Basin Auto Camp Store October 1, and left for Santa Monica, California, on October 7, leaving Mr. Car Helppie in charge of the Lower Store and Lake Store. The Lake Store closed on October 14, and the Lower Store on October 30, when Mr. Helppie and the crew departed.

On October 14 we received a copy of new contract No. I-100-MP-23, authorizing C. A. Hamilton to operate a bathhouse and swimming pool at Old Faithful from January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1949.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. All museums have remained closed during the month of October.

Mounted bird and mammal specimens from Old Faithful museum were brought to Mammoth for cleaning and preparation for future use. Also, those specimens not enclosed in cases at Fishing Bridge Museum were brought in for a thorough cleaning and rejuvenation. This work, along with the vast amount of work to be done in the Mammoth Museum, will be carried on under a special rehabilitation project for which funds are available.

Field exhibits from Artist Point, Firehole Canyon, and the Beaver Exhibit have been brought in to be freshened up and refinished during the winter. Projection screens from Canyon and Fishing Bridge, also all program easels and bulletin boards at various park stations have been brought in to the Mammoth Museum to be repaired or refinished for future use.

Research and Observation. During October a file of letters on early correspondence relating to Big Hole Battlefield was copied by Park Naturalist Brodrick with the photo record camera and microfilm was prepared for the Yellowstone microfilm library. This film provides a documentary record of the official correspondence on this national monument and is a valuable addition to our historical materials.

On Oct. 22, 23, and 24, Park Naturalist Condon accompanied Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner on trips to Grebe Lake where observations were made of trumpeter swan which had been resident there for the summer season. It was thought that it would be necessary to capture a cygnet which had made no attempt to leave this lake and preparations were made to do this. After skiing into the lake on Oct. 24 it was discovered that the adult swan and the cygnet had left the lake and it seems that the cygnet had probably taken wing when weather conditions became so severe that in order to survive it had to leave the lake area.

Progress on the removal of the [illegible] Nichols residence and Opal Terrace, has not been [illegible] and the [illegible] fresco too deep to make grading work practical. [illegible] have the area around Opal Terrace [illegible]

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Thermal Area Rehabilitation. On October 9, the Naturalist Division instigated a special project for the purpose of cleaning out pools, springs, and geysers, and funds were made available through the cooperation of the Park Engineer. The purpose of the project is to clean rubbish and debris out of the pools, springs, and geysers which had been thrown in by visitors during past years.

To carry on this work special tools were designed and constructed and it is planned that these will be retained for future maintenance work in these areas.

Adverse weather conditions made the work difficult but in spite of these circumstances much has been accomplished, and it is hoped that both funds and personnel will be made available to continue the project early in the spring.

It is interesting to note that in cleaning out some of the thermal features on Geyser Hill and in the Upper Geyser Basin, that by removing the debris from the basins of some features and unplugging the vents or pipes that go down into the earth's crust, the actual character of the feature itself has been changed and where once there were stagnant pools we now have beautiful and active hot springs.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. Adverse weather conditions which left the roads in poor condition and made travel difficult and unpleasant are strongly reflected in the visitation recorded for October.

A total of 2,668 vehicles carrying 7,477 persons entered the park during the month as compared with 5,123 vehicles and 13,910 persons for October 1945, a decrease of 46.2 per cent.

Ranger Service. Open hunting seasons in areas of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, adjacent to the park, required all sections of the park boundaries to be regularly and intensively patrolled. This work required the full time of most of the men stationed near these areas open to hunting. Due to frequent storms it was also necessary to provide for regular patrols of park roads to assist motorists who experienced difficulties in traveling over the snow-covered or icy roads.

The patrol cabins were stocked with rations and put in condition for winter early in the month. Radios were installed at locations where they will be needed during the winter, some sections of the boundary were marked with new signs and the field telephone lines were repaired for winter use. Due to the early advent of winter, it was necessary for rangers to actively assist in sawing and hauling the winter supply of wood for the ranger stations and park headquarters. The horses were moved from various field stations to Lamar where they will be kept until spring. Deep snow at higher elevations made it impossible to use horses as late as usual for patrol purposes.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. Bears. During the first two weeks of October bears became particularly troublesome in some areas, such as Canyon, Tower Falls and Mammoth. Numerous attempts to break into buildings

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The Patrol Cabin [illegible] winter early in the month. [illegible] will be needed during the winter, [illegible] with new signs and the [illegible] due to the early advent of winter, [illegible] assist in seeing and hauling the winter supply of [illegible] and park headquarters. The horses were [illegible] Upper [illegible] it impossible to use horses as [illegible].

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. [illegible] weeks of October [illegible] as Canyon, Tower Falls and Mammoth. [illegible]

occurred as the traveling public disappeared and operations were closed. However, there were no serious property damages. Occasional bear tracks were seen in the snow to the end of the month, but it is believed that most of the animals hibernated during the period.

Final injury and damage statistics, compared with two other significant years, are given below:

Year	INJURIES					DAMAGES					TOTAL INCIDENTS	BEARS KILLED FOR CONTROL
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total		
1937	8	33	54	20	115	6	31	36	8	81	196	51
1941	6	43	34	7	90	17	51	22	12	102	192	26
1946	6	0	6	3	15	1	8	4	7	20	35	6

In 1946, one personal injury for each 54,327 visitors.

ELK. Unusually stormy conditions prevailing throughout the month forced earlier-than-normal migrations of elk to the lower areas. In the Gallatin section 800 to 900 elk had drifted down below Specimen Creek during the latter part of the month, a situation not normally experienced until mid-November. Along the northern winter range area, large herds of elk formed in the Lamar Valley and to somewhat lesser extent in the Tower Falls and Mammoth areas.

BISON. Increasingly more of these animals were seen during the month in the Hayden Valley, Fountain and Lamar Valley areas as they drifted from higher sections to their winter ranges.

TRUMPETER SWAN. Since it was known that two immature cygnets (due to late nesting) had been on Grebe Lake in September, a special trip was made to that area by Asst. Chief Ranger Skinner and Park Naturalist Condon on October 22 to check on their status. One pair of adults with one immature cygnet were observed on this date, and attempts to make the birds fly were unsuccessful. Apparently, the second cygnet belonging to this pair had met with some form of disaster. A fringe of ice was beginning to form on the lake and about 12 inches of snow plastered the shores. A second trip to Grebe Lake was made on October 24 by four men on skiis prepared to use a boat and other equipment to capture the immature bird if necessary. In case of capture, it was planned to release the cygnet on the Yellowstone River just above Canyon where the chance of being joined by its parents seemed best. However, by this date all swans had left Grebe Lake and a search of the shores revealed no evidence of predation or other mishap. The adults, apparently, had succeeded in getting their immature offspring into the air. As a further check on the matter, Assistant Chief Ranger Skinner investigated the swans on the Yellowstone River on Oct. 29. Between Otter and Trout Creeks along the Yellowstone River a total of 37 trumpeter swans, including 11 cygnets, were seen. All trumpeters were identified by voice, the birds becoming noisy upon being approached from the shore. Among this group of trumpeters were three pairs of adults, each with only one cygnet. Two of the cygnets appeared immature. Also, further up the river, beyond Trout Creek, 12 additional swans were seen but they were too distant for identification.

The Annual Wildlife census report was prepared and submitted in October.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Forest Fire Protection. Fire cache work was completed and all equipment put in shape for winter storage. The last Fire Control Aide was terminated about the middle of the month. Trails estimates were compiled and submitted to the Park Engineer.

Building Fire Protection. A number of inspections were made of Government-owned and concessioners' buildings in the Mammoth and Gardiner areas to determine the more serious hazards which were reported at the time of the annual fire hazard inspection had been corrected. In practically all instances recommendations for the elimination of the most serious conditions had been carried out except where structural improvements were involved.

Wood Cutting Operations. The wood cutting contractor for the Yellowstone Park Company, Mr. Oscar Roseborough, discontinued operations on October 25. While only about two-thirds of his contract for the 1946 season had been fulfilled, largely due to the fact that he was unable to obtain employees, it was necessary to stop work because of the unprecedented early snowfall.

Accidents. Six motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month. Two persons were injured when a visitor's car skidded off the road near Norris, but the injuries were not of a serious nature. Two of the accidents involved Government-owned vehicles. One vehicle, bearing Service No. I-12021 and driven by Ira B. Smith went off an icy section of road on October 24. On October 11, a patrol car bearing Service No. I-12232 was damaged by a visitor's car which skidded into it as a result of failure of the visitor to control the car on a very icy road.

Miscellaneous. The N.F.F.E. Local 465 held its regular monthly meeting on October 7, and sponsored a Halloween party for the children at the Canteen on October 31.

Regular winter Sunday School activities were resumed at the Chapel during the month.

Miss Mary Fitz, longtime employee of Pryor Stores at Mammoth Hot Springs, died October 4 at the Park Hospital in Livingston, Montana, after an illness of about a year.

A daughter was born to Seasonal Park Ranger and Mrs. Robert H. Robinson, at Forsyth, Montana, on October 6.

Edmund B. Rogers,
Superintendent.

In sextuple.

cc: Region Two (in dupl.)

File (2)
JJ/wsh

Forest Fire Protection. Fire [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] put in shape for winter storage. The last fire [illegible] about the middle of the month. [illegible] to the Park Engineer.

Building Fire Protection. A number of inspections were made of Government-owned and concessioners' buildings [illegible] the more serious hazards which were reported in the last [illegible] inspection had been corrected. [illegible] for the elimination of the most [illegible] conditions [illegible] except where structural improvements were required.

Road Cutting Operations. The road cutting contractor [illegible] Park Company, Mr. Oscar [illegible], [illegible] while only about two-thirds of his contract [illegible] filled, largely due to the fact that he was unable to [illegible], it was necessary to stop work because of the [illegible] weather conditions.

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Miscellaneous. The N.P.C.A. [illegible] monthly meeting on October 7, and sponsored a Halloween party for the children of the [illegible] on October 31.

Regular [illegible] Sunday School activities were carried on at the Chapel [illegible] the month.

Miss Mary [illegible], longtime employee of [illegible] died October 4 at the [illegible] Hospital [illegible] after an illness of about a year.

A [illegible] was held [illegible] at [illegible], Indiana, on October [illegible].

[illegible]
Superintendent.

In duplicate.

cc: Region One (in dup.)

[illegible]